Implementation of PM's Special Packages for NER

1917. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the Ministries which have not complied with national commitment through various PM's Special Packages for NER indicating actual percentage of budgetary provisions made, utilized and amount transferred to Non-lapsable Pool of Resources during last three financial years; and

(b) the action taken against departments for not complying with this national commitment?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The new initiatives for North Eastern Region (announced by the then Prime Minister in October, 1996) envisaged, *inter-alia*, earmarking atleast 10% of the Budget (s) of all Union Ministries/Departments for specific programmes in the North-Eastern States. The following Departments have been specifically exempted from this requirement becuase of the location/scheme, specific nature of the plan provision in their Budgets.

1. Expenditure;
2. Revenue;
3. Planning;
4. Ocean Development;
5. Space;
6. Supply;
7. Atomic Energy;
8. Economic Affairs;
9. External Affairs;
10. Petroleum and Natural Gas;
11. Sugar and Edible Oils;
12. Steel;
13. Legal Affairs;
14. Personnel and Training;
15. Bio-Technology;
16. Science and Technology;
17. Scientific and Industrial Research;
18. Official Language;
19. Company Affairs.

In case of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the exemption is limited to the programmes of Scheduled Caste Division, where, instead of 10% only 2% is required to be earmarked. In respect of all other programmes, the Ministry is required to earmark stipulated 10% of the Budget for the North East and Sikkim.

Union Ministries/Departments are required to indicate a separate Head in their Demands for Grants for the purpose of making lump-sum provision (10% of Budget) for the North East and Sikkim. The unspent amounts from 10% of Budgets of the Union Ministries/Departments earmarked for the North Eastern States and Sikkim are pooled in a Central Pool of Resources to support development projects in these States. Ministry/Department-wise amounts utilized and transferred to the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources for the last three years are under reconciliation.

Besides, in January, 2000, the Prime Minister announced an Agenda for Socio-economic Development of North Eastern States and Sikkim. The Agenda covers 28 items relating to development and improvement in security scenario of the Region. The latest position regarding progress of implementation in respect of the items covered in the Agenda is available on the website: pmindia.nic.in.

Economic packages announced by PM for NER

1918. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government for development of North Eastern Region under the various economic packages announced by the Prime Minister from time to time; and

(b) the details of funds released, so far, and the demand made by each State of NER?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Efforts have been made in the past few years for boosting the development in the North East. The announcement of the Prime Ministers in this regard are steps in this direction. The then Prime Minister announced 'New Initiatives' for North Eastern Region in October, 1996 at Guwahati. Some additional features